

Improving incentives and safeguards for the home health benefit

ISSUE: The Commission has noted in the past that the incentives and the safeguards in the home health benefit could be strengthened.

KEY POINTS: This paper reviews the accuracy of the current home health case-mix system, the geographic variation in home health spending, and the changes in the types of episodes delivered. It offers potential policies that would improve the accuracy of the case-mix system, and strengthen beneficiary incentives for the appropriate use of care. We also identify additional measures for combating fraud and abuse.

ACTION: The Commissioners should review the findings for discussion.

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